

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please make the following claim substitutions:

- 1        1. (Previously presented) A method of regulating traffic in a communications  
2        network comprising the steps of:
  - 3                aggregating one or more component traffic flows into a component traffic stream;
  - 4                aggregating one or more component traffic streams into an aggregate stream;
  - 5                carrying the aggregate stream in a single, FIFO queue; and
  - 6                generating selective backpressure on selected ones of the component traffic  
7        streams such that selected ones of the component streams are desirably regulated.
- 1        2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2        aggregation of the one or more traffic flows is performed according to a destination of  
3        the traffic flows and the similarity of Quality of Service requirements of the traffic flows.
- 1        3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2        aggregation of the one or more component traffic streams into said aggregate stream is  
3        performed according to a destination of the component traffic stream.
- 1        4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said  
2        aggregation is performed according to an absence of delay guarantees.
- 1        5. (Canceled)
- 1        6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2        generating selective backpressure step comprises the steps of:
  - 3                maintaining an aggregate queue occupancy counter;
  - 4                maintaining a credit counter for each component traffic stream; and
  - 5                asserting selective backpressure for a specific one of the component traffic  
6        streams when a corresponding credit counter reaches a predetermined threshold.
- 1        7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 further comprising the steps of:  
2                initializing the credit counter to a maximum value;

3        decrementing the counter when an item of specific type arrives in the aggregate  
4        queue;

5        incrementing the counter when the queue is given service granted to the specific  
6        type of traffic stream without regard to the type of data item which departs the single  
7        FIFO queue;

8        truncating the counter at a specific maximum level; and

9        resetting the counter to a maximum value when the occupancy of the aggregate  
10      queue falls to zero.

1        8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said  
2        backpressure asserting step is performed when the credit counter reaches a value of  
3        zero.

1        9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein two of said  
2        component traffic streams are a Guaranteed Bandwidth Traffic Stream and a Best Effort  
3        Traffic Stream, and wherein each data item arrival and departure event can be  
4        associated with either guaranteed or excess bandwidth service provided by a  
5        corresponding scheduler.

1        10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the  
2        generating selective backpressure step further comprises the steps of:

3        maintaining an aggregate queue occupancy counter;

4        maintaining a Best Effort credit counter;

5        asserting a first ~~type-of~~ backpressure signal; and

6        asserting a second ~~type-of~~ backpressure signal.

1        11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said first  
2        ~~type-of~~ backpressure signal is applied towards both the Guaranteed Bandwidth Traffic  
3        Stream and the Best Effort Traffic Stream and wherein said second ~~type-of~~  
4        backpressure signal applies toward the Best Effort Traffic Stream.

1        12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said step  
2        of maintaining said Best Effort credit counter further comprises the steps of:

3 initializing the counter to a maximum value;  
4 incrementing the counter when an excess bandwidth service is provided to said  
5 aggregate queue;  
6 decrementing the counter when a data item arrival is associated with excess  
7 bandwidth service; and  
8 resetting the counter to its maximum value each time the occupancy of said  
9 aggregate queue reaches a value of zero.

1 13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 incrementing step is not performed if the first type-of backpressure signal is asserted.

1 14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein said  
2 decrementing step is not performed if the arriving data item belongs to the Guaranteed  
3 Bandwidth Traffic Stream.

1 15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said step  
2 of asserting a first type-of backpressure signal occurs whenever the aggregate queue  
3 occupancy counter exceeds a predefined threshold.

1 16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said step  
2 of asserting a second type-of backpressure signal occurs whenever the Best Effort  
3 credit counter reaches a value of zero.